

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of January 3, 2006**

1. Montgomery County Public Hearing: The Montgomery County Planning Board is holding a public forum on "How the Montgomery County Planning Board Can Improve its Public Hearing Process" on Thursday, Jan. 19th at 7 pm in the auditorium at 8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. Call 301-495-4600 for more information. Send written comments to Derick P. Berlage, Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. Emergency Assistance Fund (City-wide): The Emergency Assistance Fund, created by the City Council in 2001 and supported solely by donations, helps Takoma Park residents who are experiencing a crises such as a health issue, or a pending eviction or notice of a utility cut off, often due to loss of employment or financial circumstances beyond their control. Donations are tax-deductible and are sent by the City to a designated non-profit organization which distributes the money based on the availability of funds and the presented need. Since 2003, the city has maintained an agreement with the Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, Inc. to administer and distribute these funds. Recipients of the funds often are referrals from the City's Landlord-Tenant Office, but many residents also go directly to this well known community service center. For more information on how you can help those in need by contributing to the fund, please contact Linda Walker at 301.891.7222 or by email at LindaW@takomagov.org (*Housing and Community Development*)

3. 8425 / 8435 Piney Branch Road Property Update (Ward 5): Both the house (8425 Piney Branch Road) and the commercial building (8435 Piney Branch Road) will be opened for a final viewing on Monday, January 9 at 11:00 am. If anyone is interested in walking through the property, please feel free to stop by between 11:00 am and noon. Proposals will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 17, 2006. For more information, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301.891.7224 or by email at SaraD@takomagov.org (*Housing and Community Development*)

4. Community Murals (City-Wide): The murals around the Community Center are in the process of being dismantled and will be stored at the Public Works yard until such time as a decision is made by the Arts and Humanities Commission regarding their future. (*Housing and Community Development*)

5. First Takoma Park Poetry Series (City-wide): The Arts and Humanities Commission is happy to announce that the first Takoma Park Poetry Series will begin this winter, featuring some of the finest poets in the city and surrounding area. For anyone who'd like to be considered for a spot in the series, please send 3-5 poems to Poet Laureate Don Berger at ahc@takomagov.org or mail or drop them off with Sara Daines at the Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD 20912). The submission deadline is Friday, January 25. Shortly after this date, there will be a posting of the series schedule, which will include open-mike events. All readings, to be held at the Community Center, are free and open to everyone. A reception will follow each. (*Housing and Community Development*)

6. Takoma Park Cultural Directory (City-wide): The Arts and Humanities Commission has begun work on the creation of a new Cultural Directory. The directory, identified as a goal in the recently adopted Cultural Plan, will include the names, contact information and brief overview of the individuals and organizations in the area involved in the arts and humanities. Participation in the directory is free. If you or someone you know should be included in the directory, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission c/o Sara Anne Daines at 301.891.7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org. Increase the public's awareness of your work. Expand your exposure in the Takoma Park arts and humanities community. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. Call for Proposals for Exhibits at the Community Center (City-wide): The Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking proposals for exhibits in the Takoma Park Community Center. Exhibits may feature the work of a group of artists or craftsmen or the work of an individual. They may highlight the culture of a select ethnic group, the work of a poet or novelist, historical events, and other arts and humanities related subjects. If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring an exhibit at the community center, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission c/o Sara Daines at 301.891.7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Call for Volunteers for the Arts and Humanities (City-wide): The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of activities planned for this coming year. You can help with a one time project or event, or become involved in a standing committee. Just let us know what you are interested in and how much time you have. We'd love to have you get involved. For more information, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission c/o Sara Daines at 301.891.7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Metropolitan Branch Trail Update (Ward 1): The stone dust portion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail was paved on Thursday and Friday of this week under the supervision of the City Arborist and the Montgomery County Conservation Corps. This portion of the trail runs along Takoma Avenue from Buffalo Avenue to Fenton Street. Tree planting on the North Western end of the trail will begin in late January, weather permitting. This second phase of the project is being completed by Montgomery County with supplemental funding from the State of Maryland. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Shift Change: Changeover for patrol squads will take place this weekend. Squads 1 and 3 (Sgts. Bowers and Frishkorn) will move to the day shift. Squads 2 and 4 (Sgts. Hammond and Skibicki) will move to the night shift (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.). Please consider this when trying to reach these officers. This schedule will last through February 19, 2006. *(Police)*

11. Officers in Training: Sgt. Hammond and Cpl. Rodriguez received two days of training this week to become instructors for the use of Taser. Training of other officers in the use of this less-than-lethal secondary weapon will offered within the department. *(Police)*

12. **A Death in the City (Ward 6):** On Tuesday a man was located deceased in the stairway to the rear of a building in the 1300 block of University Boulevard. The Hyattsville man has been identified but release of his name is being withheld until notification of next of kin. Complete results from the medical examiner are pending but initial investigation suggest hypothermia as a cause of death and there were no indication of foul play. *(Police)*

13. **Traffic Stops (Wards 2, 3, 5, 6):** With traffic stops concentrated on major roadways (University, New Hampshire, Flower) during the holiday weekend, the week's eight arrests included several for driving under the influence of alcohol. Four juveniles were arrested for vehicle theft, while operating a car stolen from Washington, D.C. *(Police)*

14. **Vehicle Locking Devices:** Residents are reminded that auto theft increased in the final months of the year and the Police are offering steering wheel locking devices (similar to "The Club") for \$10, a significant discount off the retail cost. Residents should also report suspicious behavior: (in Ward 2) this week a civilian report of a man pushing a "four wheeler" down a residential street led to the recovery of the vehicle, which had been taken from a nearby residence. *(Police)*

15. **CERT Training:** For the first time, CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) will be offered in the City, sponsored by the PSCAC and Emergency Preparedness Committee, with training by Montgomery County Fire Rescue. The 20-hour course will run from Jan. 31 - Feb. 11. For details and to apply, see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fire/rescue/sion/champ/>. *(Police)*

16. **New Hire Update:** Please see attached PDF file. *(Human Resources)*

17. **New Location for the Afternoon Addition:** The Afternoon Addition moved to its new location this week in the new Community Center. It is occupying the Azalea, Rose, Lilac, Forsythia and Art Rooms for various programs. The new space has given the 65 participants in the Afternoon Addition the flexibility to get involved in other programs that we weren't able to do before such as theater, web page design, ceramics and much more. This after school program still utilizes space at the Piney Branch Elementary School for the active pursuits in the gym and for swim lessons at the pool. *(Recreation)*